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Imagery analysis report

Maykop VLF Facility Under Construction, USSR (S)

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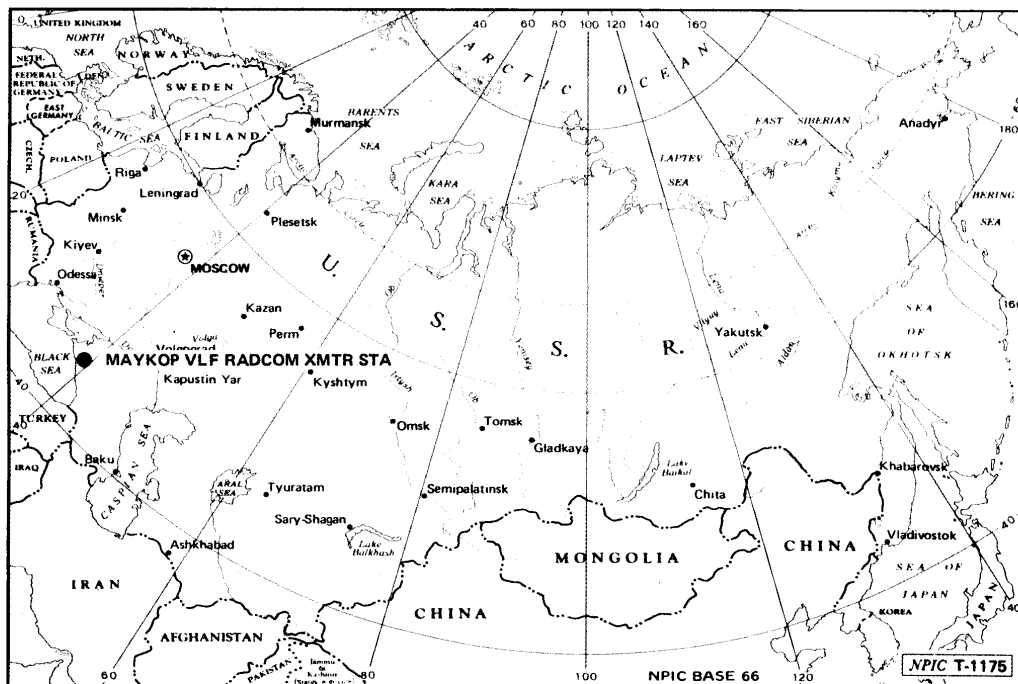
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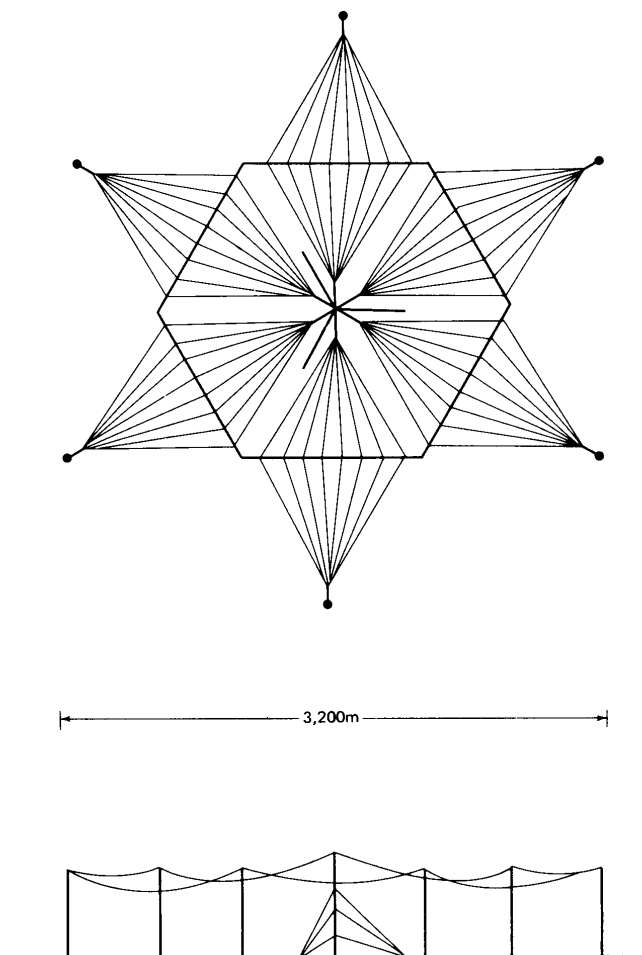
MAYKOP VLF FACILITY, UNDER CONSTRUCTION, USSR (S)

1. (S/D) Maykop VLF Radio Communications Transmitter Station () 25 nautical miles (nm) northwest of Maykop, USSR, and 40 nm inland from the Black Sea (Figure 1), employs a new Soviet very-low-frequency (VLF) antenna design. When complete, this antenna will be similar in appearance to the US trideco VLF antenna at Cutler, Maine. 25X1
2. (S/D) During the early stages of construction, the antenna at Maykop was thought to be a trihexagonal array. As construction progressed, however, it became apparent the antenna was patterned after the trideco design, a six-pointed star (Figure 2).
3. (S/D) The VLF antenna (Figure 3) consists of six exterior towers, six interior towers, and a central mast. Associated facilities include a bunkered control area, a support area, and an electric power substation.
4. (S/D) When complete, the antenna will have exterior towers 305 meters high and 1,600 meters apart, interior towers 355 meters high and 924 meters apart, and a central mast. The height of the central mast is unknown since it has not been erected. Based on guy anchor locations, the central mast should be about 405 meters high.
5. (S/D) Two rectangular bunkers are under construction in the control area. The larger bunker is () The smaller bunker is () This is a departure from the construction of other VLF control bunkers, which utilize a domed circular bunker at surface level. The bunkers at Maykop will probably be completely underground, with only personnel/equipment entrances visible. No components have been identified in either bunker. 25X1 25X1
6. (S/D) The support area is divided into two sections—a permanent site support area and a construction support area. The permanent support area contains seven barracks, a messhall, a headquarters/administration building, a probable vehicle repair building, a steamplant, six unidentified buildings, and a guard shack. The construction support area is adjacent to the permanent support area and contains a receiving building, a mobile POL storage area, and a construction materials storage area.
7. (S/D) A separately secured electric power substation is near the entrance of the facility. One power cable trench leads into the substation from the south and another leads away from the substation to the north. The trench leading north terminates near the control bunkers.
8. (S) This facility is ideally situated for VLF communication broadcasts to surface and submarine units in the Mediterranean Sea, Atlantic Ocean, and western Indian Ocean.

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to () Soviet Strategic Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, () 25X1 25X1

**FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF MAYKOP VLF RADCOM TRANSMITTER STATION, USSR**

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FIGURE 2. TRIDECO-CONFIGURED VLF ANTENNA

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